

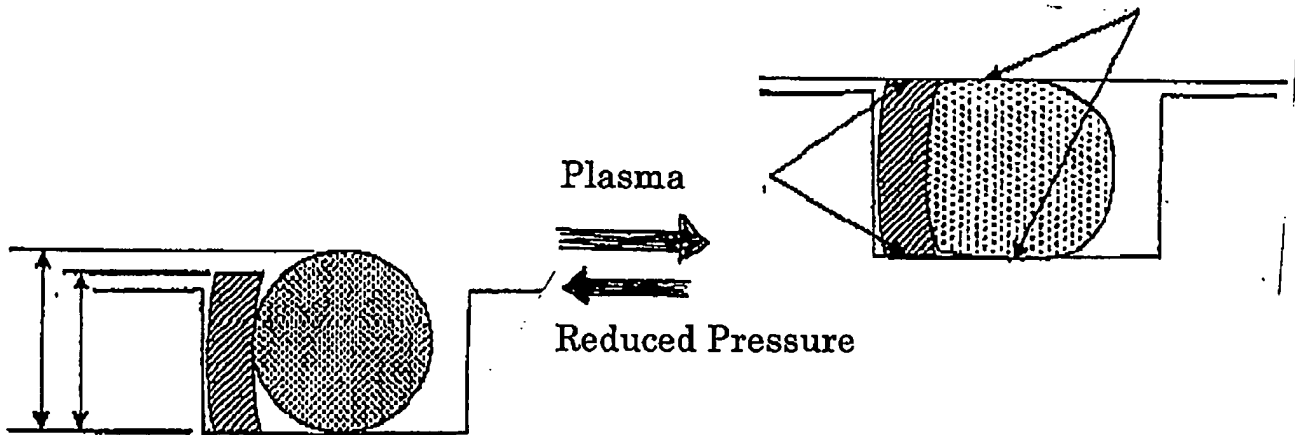
REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Fig. 7 and spec. pages 1-3) in view of Tanaka in view of Rice (U.S. Pat. No. 5,722,668). Claims 5 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants Admitted Prior Art (Fig. 7) in view of Winters in view of Havens (U.S. Pat. No. 4,039,741) in view of Rice.

In the present invention, the diameter of the O-ring (packing) is made larger than the plasma seal in the direction of compression. Both of the packing and the plasma seal are made under the condition of having a reaction force under compression and both are held directly between two members. Reduced pressure or vacuum in an apparatus can be maintained because the packing is protected from plasma by the plasma seal, and protrusion of the packing is prevented.

The packing is compressed directly between the members.

Sealing is performed to keep the state of reduced pressure.



The plasma seal is held directly between the members.

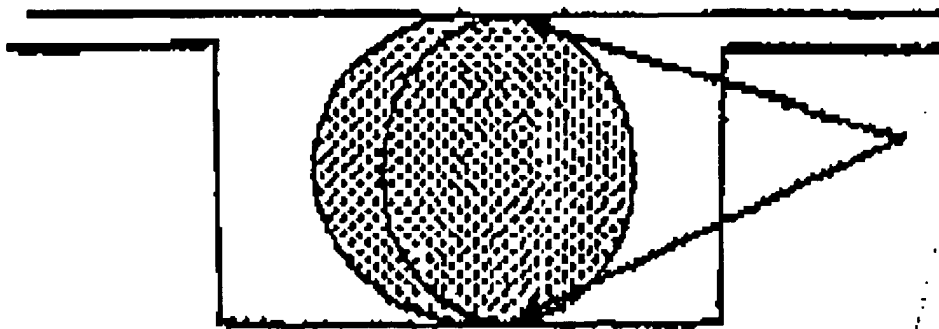
The packing is protected from plasma.

Protrusion of the packing due to reduced pressure is prevented.

On the other hand, the above point is not clearly indicated in the Tanaka reference. According to the structure in the figures of Tanaka, for example, even though two members of the packing are aligned in the direction of compression and even if PTFE for the perfluorochemical rubber layer is used at the plasma side, a compression ratio of the whole packing cannot be made large in this case because

PTFE is hard, so that a reaction force of the other rubber layer at the air side cannot be sufficiently obtained.

In summary, the present invention has the feature that the plasma seal and the packing are arranged independently with the diameter of the packing in the direction of compression is made larger than the plasma seal and the plasma seal is held between the members to thereby achieve an excellent effect in comparison with the reference to Tanaka.



Compression of the packing
cannot be made sufficiently
in Tanaka which causes
difficulty in sealing.

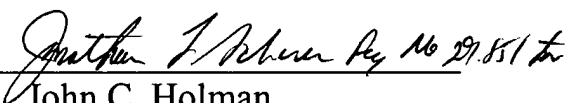
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should now be in condition for allowance. A Notice of

Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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